



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. VIII, No. 2

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2006

Our seminary has received two new seminarians from Mexico this past month, bringing the total to four students from Mexico. With the progress of those from last year, it is much easier now for the new ones to adapt. We are still praying for more vocations from our own country.

The first half of September was hot and dry, providing a few last opportunities for swimming before the cold weather sets in. Finally, in the third week of the month, we have received some badly needed rain. The weather has also begun to turn colder, reminding us that autumn is here.

Our classes this year include biology and American history, in addition to courses in Theology, math, English, choir and computer. You can expect to find some articles in the coming issues on some of these subjects. The new school year has started well, but we are still not finished with the painting of the chapel. For now, we walk over to the church for our prayers and daily Mass, and look forward to the completion of the chapel when we can once again enjoy the presence of Our Lord in our seminary.

Please continue your prayers for our seminary and that we have a successful school year. May God reward you for your support.

## Our annual camping trip

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 10

Well, here we are in another school year, and as you know we start every school year with an annual trip. This year it was on September 8. This day is a special feastday of Our Lady, the Nativity of Mary. On the day before,

we chanted Vespers in her honor. Also, this year we have two more students from Mexico. Their names are Bryan and Juan, and they went with us on our annual trip.

This time it was at a cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene. We stayed there two days and we swam and played in the water with Bosco and Fr. Benedict until we were hungry and tired. We stopped swimming to get something to eat, but Father was already cooking some pizzas for us, so we waited until everything was ready. After this delicious meal, everyone was full and happy, and then we started to clean up and put everything away.

Afterwards, we played some games. Eventually, everyone was tired, so we prayed and went to bed. The second day was so fun because we went water-skiing and tubing with Mr. Schindler in his boat. It was a windy day and a little bit chilly, but we went out anyway. Bryan, Juan and Caleb tried tubing, and Fr. Gabriel and I tried water-skiing. It was a little bit painful falling down and difficult to stand up, but we still had fun. After three or four hours, we were hungry and Mr. Schindler took us back to the cabin to get some snacks. After that, we went swimming again until 4:30 p.m. Then we returned to the seminary to eat dinner, and after that we had free time until night prayers.

I think that is almost everything I can think to tell you about our trip. I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Schindler for letting

## October calendar

- 7 — Feast of the Most Holy Rosary BVM; chanted Vespers
- 8 — José's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 11 — Feast of the Divine Maternity of Mary; chanted Vespers; no homework
- 15 — Fatima Conference guests visit the seminary
- 20 — Seminary field trip
- 27, 30-31 — First Quarter exams

us use their cabin and for taking us out to the lake and also to those who help the Seminary.

## Be holy youths!

by Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI

On January 4, 1948, in his address to the teenage boys of Catholic Vanguard in Rome, Pope Pius XII made an appeal for truly holy youths. He asked for youth who would be filled with Christ and in whom Christ should rule and direct their will and actions.

*continued on page 2*



Juan and Bryan are our two new seminarians.



## Be holy youths!

*continued from page 1*

This thought is repeated many times in his addresses to youth, parents and teachers. It shows the conviction he had that youth can become holy.

One sad fact that has often puzzled me is that some children who begin well seem to drift away and lose their first fervor or even their faith as they get older. I have often wondered why this happens. Of course, the reason is that they have begun to love and seek the world. But the question that puzzles me is this: *Why* do they turn from the love of God to the love of the world? After reading from various Catholic books on the guidance of youth and thinking the problem through, I believe it is, in part, because their good dispositions are sometimes taken for granted. This requires some explaining which I hope will be for the benefit and encouragement of those entrusted with the delicate task of guiding youth.

I do not mean that these dispositions are not really good. I believe they are good, but what was sufficient for them in younger years may not get them through the trying years of adolescence.

In early youth a child learns the alphabet. Now, do we at this point leave the child to himself, thinking that we have done enough? If we do, we can be sure he will turn out a failure in English. He needs a guide. His parents and teachers will guide him, correcting him when he makes a mistake, and modestly praising him when he does well. All of this takes much time, patience and vigilance.

How much time, patience and vigilance do we put into the work of teaching children how to get to heaven? We prepare them for First Holy Communion, and later for Confirmation. But then do we leave them to themselves, trusting that God will do all the work without our cooperation?

We feel it too inconvenient to try to correct their little faults. After all, they are small things. But we are warned in scripture that he who despises little things shall fall little by little.

But if all we do is correct their faults, we have still failed. We will probably turn them further away from God. God rewards virtue as well as punishes vice. Scripture praises virtue and points out its beauty. We must not only correct the vices of children, but also praise them and encourage them when they practice virtue. We must show them how lovable God is, and the beauty of the Catholic Faith, and enkindle in them the love of God and the Church. A fire will soon die out if we do not continually provide fuel. So a soul on fire with the love of God will grow cold if the fire is not fed by frequent acts of love of God and by the 'wood' of sacrifice. It is our duty to urge children to these things, especially by teaching them to pray often and fervently, and by telling them of the deeds of the saints.

Children *want* to become holy, and if they turn to the world and give up the desire for holiness, it is only because they found no one willing to lead them on the way to heaven, but many persons who were willing to teach them vice. We *could* have led them to holiness, but we simply did not.

This was also the thought of another priest:

"If Catholic boys or young men fall into such slothful, negligent ways it is not that they could not or would not do otherwise, it is not because we could not have had it otherwise. It is, without a shadow of doubt, because *we had not tried.*" (Fr. M. V. Kelly, C.S.B., *Zeal in the Classroom*, p. 53. Emphasis added.)

Let us be firmly convinced that we do not work in vain for truly holy youth!

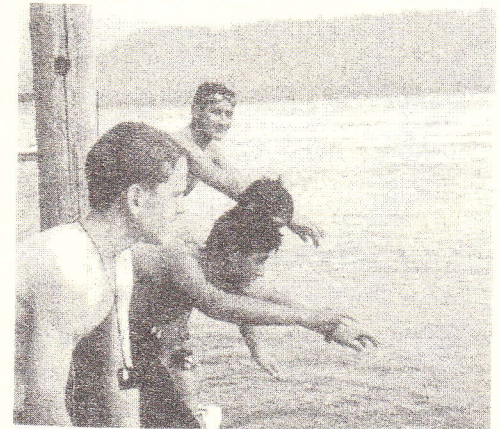
## The land of perpetual projects

*by Caleb Short, gr. 11*

**H**ow long will it last? We have a lot of projects underway right now. The new deck still needs to be completed. We are not done painting the chapel, which has carpet that will also need to be replaced. Besides these, there are plenty of other smaller projects that need to be finished.

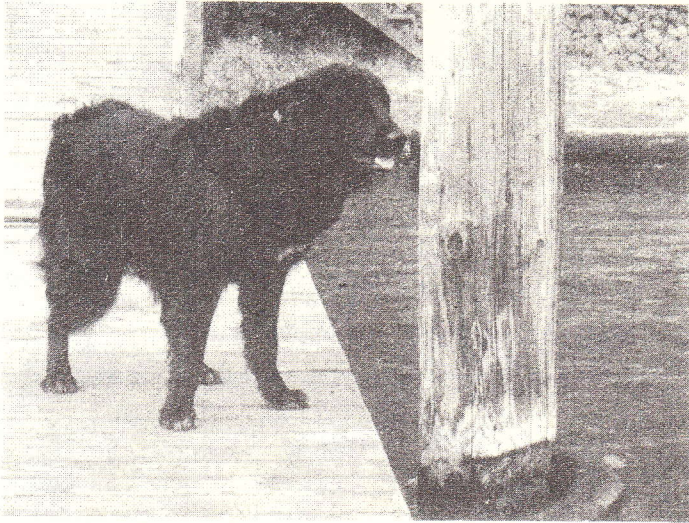
Before I came back all the windows in the chapel had been replaced, the walls patched and the ceiling re-textured. When I came back, all of the chapel pews were crammed in the classroom because of the work that was being done. Since it was sort of necessary to have a classroom for classes, we moved all the pews from the seminary classroom into the gymnasium. That was quite a workout! I think that was the day that we learned to the fullest the meaning of the two words *heavy* and *tired*. Then the chapel was primed and painted (except the wooden beams on the walls and the ceiling). I spent several hours painting the beams in the chapel but completed only part of them.

So far the chapel does look much better without all the water stains in the ceiling and cracks in the wall. It will look greatly improved with the carpet replaced. The bummer about doing all this wonderful work in Our Lord's house is that He is not there to visit right now. Yes, we still have the church, which is a three-minute walk from the seminary, but it's just not the same living under the same roof as the Blessed Sacrament. So, how long will it last? We don't know, but hopefully we can finish it soon.



*Ready, set, go!*

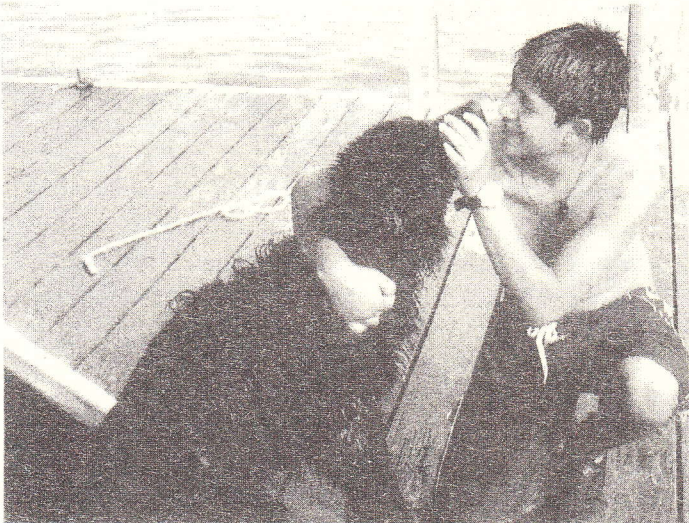




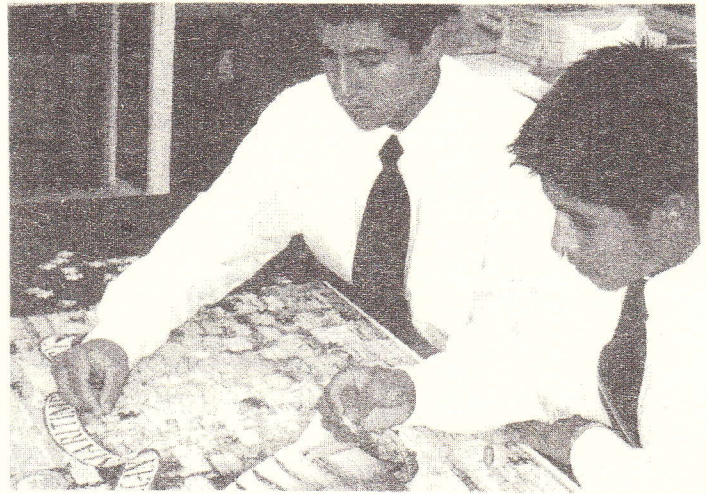
*Bosco contemplates the water: "Shall I go in or shall I stay?"*



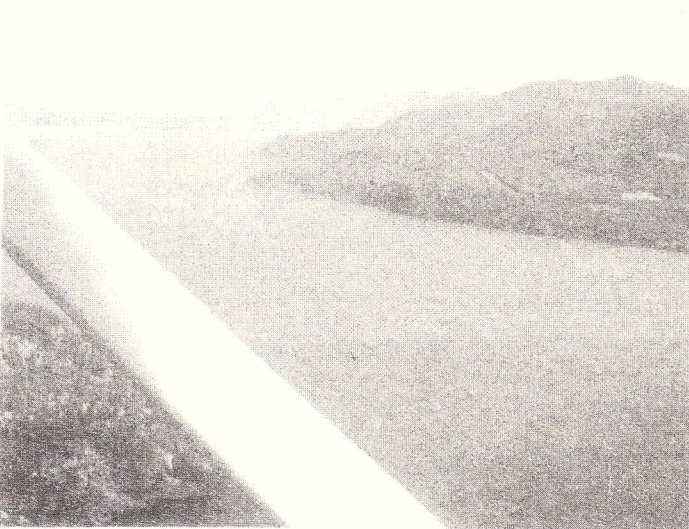
*The water wasn't too bad, once you were in.*



*Bosco receives some attention after his swim in the lake.*



*Some of the seminarians enjoy putting together jigsaw puzzles.*



*An aerial view of the scenery in northern Idaho.*



*This view of our property shows our church (upper right), gymnasium (center) and seminary (lower center).*



## Flying In Idaho

by José de Jesus Castellanos, gr. 10

Recently, some of us went on an airplane ride with Mr. LeStage, which was very exciting. I flew in a big airplane before but this was smaller and we were going to fly very close to the mountains. When we were in the airplane I felt sick to my stomach at first, but later I was fine. We took plenty of pictures of all the scenery.

We also flew by the seminary. That was interesting, but what impressed me most was to see all the houses and roads behind the seminary that I had never seen before.

Also, I am happy for the new school year, as we have two new seminarians from Mexico. I'm happy because they are here, but at the same time I would like them to learn to speak with every one in English, because I want to learn perfect English. So I'm doing my best to not speak too much Spanish.

I think this year we will have a good team to play American football and basketball, even though we lost most of our games last year. I think we will win more games this year. Also, this year there are some different classes. We are taking history, piano, computer, Theology and biology. I think this will be a very good year.

## Pope of the Rosary

Pope Leo XIII can certainly be considered the "Pope of the Rosary." So confident was he in the power of the Rosary to obtain God's blessings upon individuals and upon society, that he wrote no less than 11 encyclicals on the subject. In reading these encyclicals, one can easily see the pope's deep devotion to Our Blessed Mother and trust in the efficacy of the Rosary.

Devotion to the Rosary seems to be a particular mark of a good Catholic. How often in times of trial and discouragement we find ourselves reaching for our rosaries. Just to have the blessed beads in our fingers brings relief and courage. The recitation of even a few decades is always a source of many blessings.

No doubt most of you readers have read the wonderful book *The Secret of the Rosary*, by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. The book is so full of instruction, examples and inspiration, however, that a single reading is not enough. Especially during the month of October—the month of the Rosary—let us read some selections from the book and rekindle our fervor in reciting Mary's psalter. Let us pray

## Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

## Do you have a vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Theology, Latin, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

devoutly at least five decades daily, and more if we can. There are some souls who try to complete all 15 decades of the Rosary every day.

The important thing, however, is that we pray well. The use of a meditation book or pictures of the mysteries helps us to keep our attention on the decades. Let us also remember during October to add the prayer to St. Joseph, composed by Pope Leo XIII. St. Joseph is the patron of the Church, and by honoring him during October, we obtain the powerful intercession of Mary and her most chaste spouse.

Let us then, during this month, renew our fervor in reciting the daily Rosary, which is the one request that Our Lady of Fatima repeatedly made. Pray the Rosary daily, but especially pray it as a family. By so doing, you will obtain the blessings of God, so much needed in our days, upon your families. Please continue to pray for our seminary and to send whatever financial contributions you can afford. May God bless you and reward your support of our seminary.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

*The Guardian* is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This newsletter is free upon request.

**St. Joseph Seminary  
15384 N. Church Rd.  
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650**